

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America

Brief Program Description

Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America is a 100-year-old community-based mentoring program that was founded by Ernest Coulter in 1904. The program, which currently serves more than 200,000 youth in 5,000 communities Nationwide, is the oldest and largest youth mentoring organization in the United States. Bib Brothers/Big Sisters aims to improve youths' prosocial behaviors, academic achievement, and family and peer relationships.

A program case manager matches an adult volunteer, known as a Big Brother or Big Sister, to a child, known as a Little Brother or Little Sister, with the expectation that a caring and supportive relationship will develop. A case manager selects, monitors, and eventually closes the relationship with the volunteer and child, and communicates with the volunteer, parent/guardian, and the child throughout the matched relationship.

Independent research has shown that the positive relationships between Big Brothers and Big Sisters and their "Littles" have a direct, measurable, and lasting impact on children's lives. Research and anecdotal evidence specifically show that BBBS one-to-one mentoring helps at-risk youth overcome the many challenges youth face. Little Brothers and Sisters are less likely to begin using illegal drugs, consume alcohol, skip school and classes, or engage in acts of violence. They have greater self-esteem, confidence in their schoolwork performance, and get along better with their friends and families.

Contact Information

For indepth information on this program, please use the contact listed below.

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